

Spot Checking

Food ★ Fun ★ Frolic
By Bill Whitman

Seems Like As If . . .

... it was only yesterday that we were all planning our holiday activities. And come to think of it — it was! However, that doesn't mean we have to discontinue thinking about where to go for dinner. Or even, just plain fun.

Such as, for instance, on the fun side of the ledger, you have three or four more days in which to catch the fabulous ice show at The Forum in Inglewood. And fabulous it is! The staging, the costuming, the precision work in those full chorus numbers further enhanced by the exciting lighting effects. It all goes toward the making of a beautiful extravaganza on ice for this **Holiday On Ice** show.

You'll love every minute of it, the supers as well as the stars so keep in mind, the show closes Sunday the 12th.

The picturesque Del Prado Room of Bill Fremont's **Matador Restaurant** is becoming one of the most popular settings these nites for private dinner parties. So if you're planning one such event in the near future, here might be just the spot.

Be sure you call ahead of time, though and get your reservation for this ample banquet room. It's available Sundays through Thursdays for parties of 10 to 70 persons and the prices for the authentic foods-of-Spain start at \$3.50 a person.

Still another feature Bill presents is the Flamenco entertainment you may have if wanted, right at your table.

Mentioned a couple weeks ago about John Gregory's plans for a new business men's luncheon at the **Torrance Ramada Inn**. Now he plans on featuring one for the gals, too.

Now each day it'll be a different dish that will be offered. Things like corned beef and cabbage, old fashioned beef stew, and New England boiled beef with horseradish.

And for all ye who are watching that old waist line, Mr. Gregory has plans, too. There's to be a special daily item on the menu for you.

Hear! Hear! If you have a vacation coming up soon and you have 500 bucks to spend without



KING SIZE . . . And with the size bottle The Matador's Bill Fremont's holding, it might also represent a king-size hangover. Bill's shown above with Daniel Forge of L'Auberge Restaurant in Hollywood. Bill's the expert on Spanish wines while Daniel is the foremost authority on French wines and food.

getting into the sugar bowl, they've got a deal for you at the **Palm Springs Biltmore**.

It's a seven-day package that includes a deluxe bungalow, breakfast in bed every morning, luncheon around the pool, and a gourmet dinner every nite.

Then by way of furthering your seven-day fun bit, you have unlimited golf privileges and if you're the lazy-type golfer, they'll even furnish an electric cart for your convenience.

Then for that few moments of freedom they'll provide transportation and tickets for a visit to the famous tramway.

For the more energetic ones that go in for the hiking thing, they'll prepare a box lunch for you so that you may explore the hills and canyons in the desert area.

And if you're flying (take a plane) limousine transportation is available at the airport. If all this grabs you pretty well, just call (714) 324-1221 and make your arrangements.

If you should find yourself down Laguna Beach way any time in the next couple weeks there's some fine entertainment for you at **Ben Brown's Restaurant**.

It's a new musical aggregation that is being currently featured there at the Laguna Beach Country Club. The **Tops Trio**. Try 'em. Excellent food fare here, too.

Ever heard Enrico Macias, that continental vocal star during his concerts around the country? Well he's one of the regulars at **Robaire's French Restaurant** at 348 S. La Brea.

It's highly doubtful he'll give out with song during one of his many visits to Robaire's but it just goes to show you that the continentals take advantage of the superb Parisian cuisine offered here and at reasonable prices.

Robaire's is open Tuesday through Sunday for dinner and banquets but better call 931-1246 for reservations. A very interesting spot for a quiet dinner.

As all music buff's know, Martin Denny introduced the exotic sounds of the South Seas to popular music. Well now Martin's

back at Hop Louie's Latitude 20 in Torrance.

It's to be something new for Denny in the way of presenting a show as in the past he's worked more or less as a single. This time 'round he's presenting a new and exciting revue show for your entertainment.

This new revue is complete with beautiful girls instead of just his great musical sounds, and you know he has some great sounds. Remember the albums like "Exotica," "Quiet Village," and "Taste of Honey?" Well those are his.

So once again, Hop Louie's playing "musical entertainers." Y'see, Martin only recently closed at Hop's Trade Winds in Oxnard and Ernie Menehune closed at the Latitude 20. Well, they've just traded spots, that's all. Still in the family.

This will be one of Ernie's last appearances before heading for Lake Tahoe and Harrah's. From there it's on to Caesars Palace in Vegas.

If it's Santa Barbara for you in the next few weeks, don't forget to make a stop by the **Santa Barbara Inn** for a listen to the sensational Lyons & Bartell Duo.

These are the two, you know, who have been dubbed "the sensational duo with the big band sound."

They appear nightly in the **Sky Room Lounge** for dancing and listening.

New banquet facilities have been added to **Sam's Cafe** on Sepulveda in Torrance recently, marking it's 19th month of operation in the area.

Wally Botello's new dining facility displays a tasteful blend with the Spanish design of the



EXOTICA . . . That's the name of one of Martin Denny's albums along with "Quiet Village" and many others. Martin brings his new Martin Denny Revue to Hop Louie's Latitude 20 audiences these nites in Torrance.

main dining room and now boasts a seating capacity of 180. That's just the new banquet rooms—or room, if you will, 'cause it breaks up into three separate rooms if need be for big or little parties, whichever you happen to need. A truly delightful "little spot" is **Sam's Cafe**.

Surely you're acquainted with the **Villa Rosati** at 11919 W. Pico Blvd. Well then in that case you must know that they have recently undergone extensive remodeling and it's quite the delicious spot for dining or quaffing.

They're five partners here and they run like so; Vito, Frank, Joe, Mike, and Vince, reading

top to bottom. Age-wise, that is! And that **Roman Room** at the **Villa Rosati** is truly a delightful cocktail lounge for a leisurely and occasional "giant malt." Lounged in there one nite last week with PR man Larry Hunter and found the spot thoroughly enjoyable.

Of course, being a sucker for pizza, bought one of the big jobs to take home and killed the whole thing en route.

Been by the **Smith Bros. Indian Village** lately? And especially on a Friday nite? If you haven't, by all means give it a whirl soon. It's Bouillabaise Nite!

To put this delightful dish on your table, they simply take a bunch of fish and shellfish and simmer it ever so slowly in the most savory of chowders, seasoned to a king's taste with herbs and saffron. Add to this, a decanter of wine and you've got yourself a feast fit for the Gods!

With garlic bread thrown in, know what this'll run you? Just \$2.95—that's what it'll run you! All available at the **Indian Village**, 4020 Pacific Coast Hwy.

Hey now, how about this! The Arthur Whitlaw and Gene Persson production of "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" will turn in it's 350th performance at the **Ivar Theatre** in Hollywood. That must be some kind of a record.

Featured in this musical production are Gary Burkhoff, Nicole Jaffe, Judy Kaye, Hal-James Pederson, Will Seltzer, and Robert Towers, bringing to life the famous Charles Schultz comic strip characters.

Just thought it might be a good idea to toss this item in. Go see it!

And while we're on the subject of theatre, might mention the up-coming thing at the **Anaheim Melodayland Theatre**.

It's Juliet Prowse with her all-new Las Vegas production starting Jan. 14 through the 19th.



LUNCH BUFF . . . That's the way John Gregory feels about his patrons at his Torrance Ramada Inn for 1969. Got great plans for you this year in the way of business men's and women's luncheons and even something for the dieters.

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TASTEFUL FACILITY . . . It's the new banquet room added to Wally Botello's Sam's Cafe on Sepulveda Boulevard in Torrance, featuring colorful carpeting, carved wooden doors, massive lighting fixtures, and a large fully equipped bar.

It's a one-week stand so better hurry.

So now guess that Chinese type flu has visited everyone, including the gang over at the **Chapel Theatre** where they've been trying to put on "Everybody Loves Opal" by John Patrick.

It'll be delayed a full week while the cast gets back on its feet when they'll hold their champagne opening Friday, Jan. 17, at 2222 Lomita Blvd. in Lomita. The time will be 8:30, as usual.

This is a comedy revolving

around a plot to murder a spinster for the 30 grand insurance policy she has, but the thing is carried by her "business partners." Haa-a-a, the plot thickens!

Should be a good comedy, though with lots of suspenseful moments throughout. Featured in this three-act play are Patricia Lester, Lory Hansen, Murray Rubin, Ron Scarlata, Arlyn Ehmsen, and Ron Remington. The production is directed by Jarl Victor.

For ticket information call 373-3636. Show runs through Feb. 8.

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